

North Little Rock Community Planning

Chapter 83

SIGNS

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Signs

Sec. 83-1. Purpose and intent.

- a. The purposes of this chapter are to: 1. Control and coordinate the type, placement and physical dimensions of signs within the various zoning classifications. 2. Recognize the commercial communication requirements to all sectors of the business community; to encourage the innovative use of design. 3. Promote both renovation and proper maintenance. 4. Allow for special circumstances; and to guarantee equal treatment under the law through accurate record keeping and consistent enforcement. 5. Promote public safety by assuring safe operation of motor vehicles upon public rights-of-way within the planning jurisdiction of the city. 6. Preserve, protect and enhance the value of property within the planning jurisdiction of the city by maintaining and improving the esthetics of the community. b. This purpose shall be accomplished by regulation of the placement, erection, use and maintenance of signs. The use of signs is regulated according to the zoning classification in which it is located. The placement and physical dimensions of signs are regulated primarily by type and length of street frontage. No sign shall be permitted as a main or accessory use except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. c. The primary intent of this chapter is to regulate signs of a commercial nature intended to be viewed from any vehicular public right-of-way. d. Additional regulations on signs may be imposed by ordinances, supplemental to the Code, for specified areas, such as historic districts. (Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-98)

Sec. 83-2. Definitions.

The following word, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings, ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Abandoned sign means a sign which no longer identifies or advertises a bona fide business, lessor, service, owner, product or activity, and for which no legal owner can be found.

Administrator means the person, designated by the director to enforce this chapter.

Alteration means to replace, exchange, reconstruct, renovate, move, relocate, animate, enlarge or decrease in size.

Animated sign means any sign which incorporates in any manner mechanical movement, or apparent movement achieved by electrical pulsations or other means such as sequential light phasing.

Awning means a shelter projecting from and supported by the exterior wall of a building constructed on non-rigid materials on a supporting framework.

Awning sign means a sign painted on, printed on, or attached flat against the surface of an awning.

Banner sign means a sign made of fabric or any non-rigid material with no enclosing framework.

Billboard means off-premise sign.

Billboard site means one sign structure regardless of the number of faces. A location containing multiple billboards not exceeding 15 feet in distance between the closest point of the billboards is one billboard site.

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Building has the meaning provided for it in the edition of the Standard Building Code in force in the city.

Changeable copy sign (automatic) means a sign on which the copy changes automatically on a lampbank or through mechanical means, e.g., electrical or electronic time and temperature units.

Changeable copy sign (manual) means a sign on which copy is changed manually in the field, e.g., readerboards with changeable letters.

Clearance (of a sign) means the smallest vertical distance between the grade and the lowest point of any sign, including framework and embellishments, extending over that grade.

Construction sign means a temporary sign identifying an architect, contractor, subcontractor, and/or material supplier participating in construction on the property on which the sign is located.

Copy means the wording on a sign surface in either permanent or removable letter form.

Directional/information sign means a sign of two feet square or less, and no more than six feet in height, giving direction to a specific location, instructions or facility information. The sign may contain the business name or logo and an arrow for direction of travel, but no advertising or commercial copy.

Director means the director of the department of the city designated by the mayor as having authority and responsibility under this chapter.

Double-faced sign means a sign with two faces.

Electrical sign means a sign or sign structure in which electrical wiring, connections or fixtures are used.

Façade means the entire building front including the parapet, wingwalls, etc.

Face of sign means the area of a sign on which the copy is placed or message conveyed.

Festoon means a string of ribbons, tinsel, small flags or pinwheels.

Flashing sign means a sign which contains an intermittent or sequential flashing light source used primarily to attract attention. "Flashing sign" does not include a changeable copy sign, animated sign, or sign which through reflection or other means, creates an illusion of flashing of intermittent light.

Freestanding sign means a permanently attached sign supported upon the ground by poles or braces and not attached to any building.

Frontage means the length of the property line of any one premises along a public right-of-way on which it borders.

Frontage, building means the length of an outside building wall on a public right-of-way.

Government sign means any temporary or permanent sign erected and maintained by the city, county, state or federal government for traffic direction or for designation of or direction to any school, hospital, historical site, or public service, property, or facility.

Height (of a sign) means the vertical distance measured from the highest point of the sign, including decorative embellishments, to the grade of the adjacent street or the surface grade beneath the sign, whichever is less (compare "clearance").

Identification sign means a sign whose copy is limited to the name and address of a building; institution, or person and/or to the activity or occupation being identified.

Illegal sign means a sign which does not meet the requirements of this chapter and which has not received legal nonconforming status.

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Illuminated sign means a sign with an artificial light source incorporated internally or externally for the purpose of illuminating the sign.

Incidental sign means a sign, emblem or decal informing the public of facilities or services available on the premises, e.g., a credit card sign or a sign indicating the hours of business.

Lot means a parcel of land legally defined on a subdivision map recorded with the assessment department or land registry office, or a parcel of land defined by a legal record or survey map.

Maintenance means the cleaning, painting, repair or replacement of defective parts of a sign in a manner that does not alter the basic copy design or structure of the sign.

Mansard means a steeply sloping ornamental roof-like structure commonly used on exterior walls of buildings having flat, or nearly flat roofs.

Marquee means a permanent roof-like structure or canopy of rigid materials supported by an extending structure from the façade of a building.

Marquee sign means any sign attached to or supported by a marquee structure.

Nameplate means a non-electric on-premises identification sign giving only the name, address and/or occupation of an occupant or group of occupants.

Nonconforming sign means a sign which was erected legally but which does not comply with subsequently enacted sign restrictions and regulations.

Occupancy means the portion of a building or premises owned, leased, rented or otherwise occupied for a given use.

Off-premises sign means a sign structure advertising an establishment, merchandise, service or entertainment, which is not sold, produced, manufactured or furnished at the property on which the sign is located, e.g., billboards or outdoors advertising.

On-premises sign means a sign which pertains to the use of the premises on which it is located.

Owner means a person recorded as such on official records. For the purposes of this chapter, the owner of property on which a sign is located is presumed to be the owner of the sign unless facts to the contrary are officially recorded or otherwise brought to the attention of the administrator, e.g., a sign leased from a sign company.

Painted wall sign means a sign which is applied with paint or similar substance on the face of a wall.

Parapet means the extension of a false front or wall above a roof line.

Permanent mounting means to set, fix or secure in or on a support, thereby allowing such sign to become a fixed object to be used for the purpose of which it was intended.

Point of purchase display means advertising of a retail item accompanying its display, e.g., an advertisement on a product dispenser.

Pole cover means a cover enclosing or decorating poles or other structural supports of a sign.

Political sign means a temporary sign used in connection with a local, state, or national election or referendum.

Portable sign means any sign designed to be moved easily and not permanently affixed to the ground or to a structure or building.

Poster panel means a billboard containing up to 300 square feet of sign area.

Premises means a parcel of land with its appurtenances and buildings which, because of its unity of use, may be regarded as a conveyable unit of real estate.

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Projecting sign means a sign, other than a flat wall sign, which is attached to and projects from a building wall or other structure not specifically designed to support the sign.

Real estate sign means a temporary sign of 32 square feet or less advertising the real estate upon which the sign is located as being for rent, lease or sale.

Roof line means any sign erected over or on the roof of a building.

Rotating sign means a copy in which the sign itself or any portion of the sign moves in a revolving or similar manner. Such motion does not refer to methods of changing copy.

Scenic corridor means a public right-of-way which in the opinion of the city council exhibits special aesthetic and visual characteristics worthy of protection through enhanced billboard regulation.

Sign means any device, structure, fixture or placard using graphics, symbols, and/or written copy designed specifically for the purpose of advertising or identifying any establishment, product, goods or services.

Sign, area of means that area enclosed by one continuous line connecting the extreme points or edges of a sign. The area shall be determined using the largest sign area or silhouette visible at any one time from any one point. This area does not include the main supporting sign structure but all other ornamental attachments, inner connecting links, etc., which are not a part of the main supports of the sign, are to be included in determining sign area.

Snipe sign means a temporary sign or poster affixed to a tree, fence, etc.

Subdivision identification sign means a freestanding or wall sign identifying a recognized subdivision, condominium complex, or residential development.

Temporary sign means a sign not constructed or intended for long-term use, and not permanently attached to the ground, a building or structure.

Trailer sign means any sign that is attached to a frame with wheels and designed in a manner that allows it to be moved easily.

Under-canopy sign means a sign suspended beneath a canopy, ceiling, roof or marquee.

Use means the principal purpose for which a building, lot, sign or structure is intended, designed occupied or maintained.

Vehicular sign is any sign displayed on a parked or moving vehicle, where the primary purpose of the vehicle is to advertise a product or business or to direct people to a business or activity. For purposes of this definition, vehicular signs shall not include business logos, identification, or advertising on vehicles primarily used for other business purposes.

Wall sign means a sign attached parallel to and extending not more than 18 inches from the wall of a building. "Wall sign" includes painted, individual letter and cabinet signs and signs on a mansard.

Window sign means a sign installed inside a window and intended to be viewed from the outside.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1,11-9-98)

Sec. 83.3. Penalty.

It is the desire of the city council that the provisions of this sign code be enforced in a fair and consistent manner. While the particular facts and circumstances of a situation may dictate more drastic enforcement measures, it is the desire of the council that this sign code be enforced progressively, beginning with administrative action, followed by civil action,

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and if necessary, criminal action. It is envisioned by the council that significant education of the community will occur after passage of this chapter, and that the more severe enforcement actions will be initiated after refusal to comply with less severe measures. However, this code may be enforced administratively, and by all civil and criminal remedies allowed under this Code and state law.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-98)

Sec. 83-4. Conflicts.

If any portion of this chapter is found to be in conflict with any other provision of any section of this Code or other applicable codes or statutes, the provision which establishes the higher standard shall prevail.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-98)

Sec. 83-5. Exemptions.

This chapter does not relate to building design. This Chapter does not regulate:

1. Official traffic or government signs.
2. The copy and message of signs.
3. Product dispensers.
4. Scoreboards on athletic fields.
5. Flags of any nation, government, or non-commercial organization.
6. Gravestones.
7. Barber poles.
8. Religious symbols.
9. Commemorative plaques.
10. The display of street numbers.
11. Any display or construction not defined as a sign.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-98)

Sec. 83-6. Nonconforming signs.

- a. Existing signs as of the effective date of this article which do not conform to the specific provisions of the chapter may be eligible for the designation “nonconforming” provided that the signs have a valid city permit or variance and the signs comply with all applicable laws.
- b. A nonconforming sign shall lose its designation if the sign is altered in violation of this chapter. Such signs shall be deemed illegal and removed by the sign owner pursuant to the provisions of this code or state law. This provision does not refer to change of copy or normal maintenance.
- c. The nonconforming sign is subject to all requirements of this chapter regarding safety, maintenance and repair. However, any nonconforming sign that is damaged to the extent that the cost for complete repair exceeds 50 percent of the replacement cost of the sign, such sign shall be removed by the sign owner. Owners of managed on-premise signs

may obtain a new sign permit if the sign is to be replaced as permitted and in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99.)

Sec. 83-7. Violations.

- a. When, in the judgment of the administrator, a violation of this chapter exists, the administrator shall issue a written order to the alleged violator. The order shall specify those
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sections of this chapter of which the person may be in violation and shall state that the person has ten days from the date of the order in which to abate the alleged violation or to appeal to the board of zoning adjustment; provided, however, that in the case of an alleged violator to whom the administrator has issued such an order within the preceding 12-month period, the notice shall require the person to abate the alleged violation within 24 hours. If the violator fails to appeal or to correct the violation within the time allowed by this section, the sign shall be deemed illegal and removed by the sign owner.

- b. If upon inspection, the administrator finds that a sign is abandoned or structurally, materially, or electrically defective, or in any way endangers the public, or is not maintained in accordance with this or other applicable codes or statutes, such signs shall be deemed illegal and the administrator shall issue a written order to the owner of the sign and/or the occupant of the premises stating the nature of the violation and requiring the sign to be repaired in conformance with this chapter or removed within ten days of the date of the order.
- c. Illegal signs are public nuisances. In the event of a failure to comply with the order of the administrator, the city may institute legal proceedings pursuant to this code, including without limitation, an action to abate the sign as a nuisance. Costs incurred by the city shall be charged to the owner of the sign and/or the owner of the property on which the sign is located. The costs may constitute a lien upon the property and may be collected by any appropriate lawful means.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-8. Enforcement agency.

The code enforcement department which shall enforce this chapter and all references herein.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-9. Interpretation and variances by enforcement officer.

The administrator shall interpret the application of the provisions of this chapter in such a way as to carry out its stated purpose and intent. The administrator may review requests for variances from the literal provisions of this chapter in cases where strict enforcement of the chapter would cause undue hardship to the individual application under consideration and allow such deviation only when it is demonstrated that such action will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of this chapter. In no event shall the administrator authorize a deviation of greater than 15 percent of height and area requirements of this chapter. Requests for variances greater than 15 percent of height of area requirements shall be made to the housing and building board of adjustments pursuant to chapter 18.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-10. Reserved.

Sec. 83-11. Compliance.

It is unlawful for any person to erect, place or maintain a sign in the city except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(Ord. No. 7171, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-12. Contractor-License.

- a. No person shall engage in the business of installing, erecting, or maintaining any sign, nor contract for the performance of such service without a license to do so issued until the bond or insurance required by this code has been filed with and approved by the city clerk.
- b. The license of any sign contractor may thereafter be canceled for cause by the city council. When any sign contractor has, within two calendar years, been found guilty of three separate violations of this chapter or the building code by any court of record, whether such judgment by appealed or not, the department of public works shall cancel the license. The license of any person which has been canceled shall not be renewed until all past violations have been corrected, and any application for renewal of the license shall be made to the city council, and the department shall file with the city council a report stating whether or not all previous violations have been corrected.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-13. Same-Bond or insurance.

No person shall engage in the business of installing, or erecting or maintaining any sign or medium of display or advertising, electric or otherwise, within the city until he has filed with the city collector a bond or certificate of liability and property damage insurance in the sum of \$500,000.00 with such surety thereon as may be approved by the city clerk. such bond or certificate of liability and property damage insurance shall be conditioned for the installation, erection, and maintenance of signs in accordance with the ordinances of the city and laws of the state, and shall provide for the indemnification of the city and the purchaser or lessee of such signs, for damages or liabilities which may accrue by reason of faulty installation, erection, maintenance, demolition, repair, removal, or defects in , or collapse of any sign so serviced by or under the direction of the maker of such bond, or certificate of liability of property damage insurance. Such bond or certificate of liability and property damage insurance shall provide for the indemnification of any person who, while upon public property or in any public place, incurs damages for which the principal named in the bond or certificate of liability property damage insurance is legally liable.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-14. Prohibited signs and sales promotion devices.

The following type signs are prohibited in all districts unless otherwise noted:

1. Abandoned signs.
2. Banners, pennants, festoons, searchlights, except as specifically allowed.
3. Signs imitating or resembling official traffic or government signs or signals.
4. Snipe signs or signs attached to trees, telephone poles, fences, public benches, or placed on public property or public right-of-way.
5. Vehicular signs.
6. Trailer or temporary signs that do not meet the standards for freestanding permanent signs, or as allowed under section 83-29.
7. Roof signs, or any sign that is not mounted on a vertical surface.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-15. Abandoned signs.

All abandoned signs not removed by owner after due notice shall be removed by the city. Upon completion of the work the city shall file and have a lien upon real estate for the cost of removing the sign.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-16. Permit.

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- a. Unless otherwise provided by this chapter, all signs shall require permits and payment of fees as described in this section. No permit is required for the maintenance of a sign or for a change of copy on painted, printed or manual changeable copy signs.
- b. The following signs are exempted from permit requirements but must be in conformance with all other requirements of this chapter:
 1. Construction signs.
 2. Directional/information signs.
 3. Nameplates.
 4. Political signs; which in residential zones shall be limited in sign area to 16 square feet per face of sign.
 5. Public signs or notices, or any sign relating to an emergency.
 6. Real estate signs.
 7. Incidental signs.
- c. Application for a permit for the erection, alteration or relocation of a sign, when allowed by this chapter, shall be made to the administrator upon a form provided by the administrator and shall include the following information:
 1. The sign owner's name, address and telephone number; and (if different) the name of the person in possession of the premises where the sign is located or to be located;
 2. The name, address and telephone number of the person who will be performing the work requested;
 3. The location and zoning description of the parcel in which the sign is or will be located;
 4. The type of sign or sign structure as defined in this chapter;
 5. Specifications and scale drawings showing the materials, design, dimensions, structural supports and electrical components of the proposed sign;
 6. The cost to construct the sign and any alteration expenses;
 7. Any other information the administrator shall require to ensure compliance with this and all other applicable city ordinances.Accompanying each application for a sign permit shall be a detailed drawing or drawings, all of which are to be to scale and legible. All existing structures and proposed structures along with proposed sign locations will be indicated. Building or structure elevation drawings shall be submitted when applications are for building-mounted signs.
- d. Accompanying each application for a sign permit for an existing sign shall be:
 1. A completed application form stating all necessary facts concerning each sign, signed by the owner certifying to the facts in the application.
 2. Photographs of the sign and its locations.
- e. All applications for permits filed with the administrator shall be accompanied by a

payment of the initial permit fee for each sign according to the following schedule. All signs shall be permitted and tagged for which a fee shall be paid in accordance with the permit schedule set out below:

Off-premise signs on scenic corridors:

Painted bulletin.....	\$225.00
Poster panel.....	135.00

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Off-premise signs outside scenic corridors:

Painted bulletin.....	\$100.00
Poster panel.....	60.00

All on-premise signs as follows:

Ground mounted signs.....	40.00
Projecting.....	40.00
Wall signs (including marquee and mansard).....	40.00
Special event.....	10.00

Alteration fee: (based on cost of alteration as percentage of replacement cost)

Off-premise signs.....	No fee
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Ground-mounted signs:

Up to 25%.....	10.00
25% to 50%.....	20.00
50% to 75%.....	30.00
Over 75%.....	40.00

Projecting signs:

Up to 25%.....	15.00
25% to 75%.....	25.00
Over 75%.....	35.00

Wall signs (marquee and mansard signs included):

Up to 75%.....	20.00
Over 75%.....	30.00

f. If a permit is denied, the permit fee will be refunded to the applicant. If any sign is installed or placed on any property prior to receipt of a permit, the specified permit shall be doubled. However, payment of the doubled fee shall not relieve the responsible party of any other requirements or penalties prescribed in this chapter. The mayor or his designee may accept requests for refunds or unused sign fees when a lease has been terminated or the sign has been destroyed. In the event a lease has been terminated or a sign has been destroyed, the mayor or his designee may refund a portion of the sign permit fee based on the amount of time remaining between the date the lease was terminated or the sign was destroyed and the date the permit expires.

g. Any person installing, altering or relocating a sign for which a permit has been issued shall notify the administrator upon completion of the work. The administrator may require a final inspection, including an electrical inspection and inspection of footings on freestanding signs. The administrator may require in writing upon issuance of a permit that he be notified for inspection prior to the installation of certain signs.

h. Permits for on-premise signs are to be issued for a period of one year. All sign owners are required to renew their sign permits every year prior to January 31 of the year. Any sign not permitted within the month of January of the year shall be classified as

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abandoned. On-premise signs with expired permits are illegal and shall be removed by the sign owner at his expense.

i. All off-premise sign permits which are valid on the effective date of this article are hereby revoked. The fees paid for such permits shall be prorated, rounded to the nearest \$10.00 and applied toward the new permit fees. Each billboard site shall require one off-premise sign permit. Notwithstanding any other provision for the application and issuance of permits, owners of all existing billboards shall obtain a new permit for each billboard within 60 days of the passage of this article. Billboard permits shall be issued for a period of two years. Billboard owners shall renew their permits prior to September 30th of the second year. The renewal fee shall be the same amount as the initial permit fee. The sign owner shall submit to the administrator any changes in the information contained in the original permit. Any sign not permitted by the due date shall be classified as abandoned. Such signs are illegal and shall be removed by the sign owner at his expense.

j. Off-premise sign permits issued for new signs prior to the effective date of this article are hereby revoked provided the permit holder has not commenced actual construction under the permit resulting in a tangible erection of the sign structure. The permit fee for such signs shall be refunded by the city upon application of the owner.

k. The issuance of a sign permit shall in no instance be construed as waiving any provision of the chapter. If any person commences work on a sign before obtaining the necessary permit, or if a permit issued despite the violation of any provision of this chapter, or if the location or specifications of the sign vary from the approved design or location, the person shall be subject to the penalty prescribed in this code and the sign shall be removed as an illegal sign.

l. In addition, the administrator shall revoke a sign permit for failure of the holder to conform with any of the provisions of the chapter. All rights and privileges acquired under the provisions of this chapter, or any amendment thereto, are mere licenses revocable at any time. (Ord. No 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec.83-17. Maintenance.

a. All freestanding signs and the premises surrounding the same shall be maintained by the owner thereof in a clean, sanitary, and inoffensive condition, and free and clear of all obnoxious substances, rubbish and weeds.

b. All signs shall be properly maintained at all times. Exposed surfaces shall be clean and painted if paint is required. Defective parts shall be replaced.

c. The administrator shall have the right to order the repair or removal of any sign which is defective, damaged, substantially deteriorated or presents a public hazard, as defined in the edition of the Standard Building Code in force in the city. (Ord. No. 7176, §1, 11-9-99)

Sec 83-18. Lighting.

Unless otherwise specified by this chapter, all signs may be illuminated. However, no sign regulated by this chapter may utilize:

1. An exposed incandescent lamp with an external reflector and without a sunscreen or comparable diffusion.
2. Any exposed incandescent lamp in excess of 300 watts.

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3. Any revolving beacon light.
4. Any device that allows oscillating, rotating or flashing lights.
5. Animation manifesting either kinetic or illusionary motion occasioned by a natural manual, mechanical, electrical or other means.
6. The illusion of movement by means of a preprogrammed repetitious sequential switching action in which illuminated elements of the sign are turned off or on to visually simulate the impression of motion characteristic of chasing, running, blinking, oscillating, twinkling, scintillating, or expanding and contracting light patterns.

(Ord. No 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec 83-19. Changeable copy.

Unless otherwise specified by this chapter a sign may use changeable copy limited to:

1. *Manually activated:* Signs whose alphabetic, pictographic, or symbolic informational content can be changed or altered by manual means.
2. *Electrically activated:* Signs whose alphabetic, pictographic, or symbolic informational content can be changed or altered on a fixed surface composed of electrically illuminated or mechanically driven changeable segments.

However, in no instance shall these types of signs produce an illusion of movement or animation prohibited by section 83-18. (Ord. No. 7176 § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-20. Construction specifications.

a. Compliance with building, electrical, and traffic codes. All electrical signs or equipment and devices used in electrical signs shall bear the label of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., or other recognized independent testing laboratory approved by the building official. Disconnect switches shall be located in a safe and secure location for each electrical sign and shall be located within 25 feet of such sign. Each disconnect switch shall be located so as to be readily accessible and shall be properly identified stating what sign it controls. All materials and methods used for installation shall comply with the current adopted electrical code. Specific application shall be made for approval of these signs and/or devices by the building official and/or chief electrical inspector of the city, building codes section. Such review shall be accomplished utilizing standard application and permit procedures established by the city.

b. Anchoring. No sign shall be suspended by non-rigid attachments that will allow the sign to swing in a wind. All freestanding signs shall have self-supporting structures erected on or permanently attached to concrete foundations, or erected with pilings or other methods approved by the administrator.

c. Wind loads. All signs shall be designed to withstand a wind of 60 miles per hour.

d. Additional construction specifications. No signs shall be erected, constructed or maintained so as to obstruct any fire escape, required exit, window or door opening used as a means of egress. No sign shall be attached in any form, shape or manner which will interfere with any opening required for ventilation, except that signs that may be erected in front of any building may cover transom windows when not in violation of the provisions of the edition of the Standard Building Code or Fire Prevention Code in force

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in the city. Signs shall be located in such a way as to maintain horizontal and vertical clearance of the overhead electrical conductors in accordance with all ordinances, depending on voltage concerned. However, in no case shall a sign be installed closer than 24 inches horizontally or vertically from any conductor or public utility guy wire. Electrical connections to any sign must be made with overhead or underground connections. Construction and placement of all signs must conform to the applicable traffic codes of the city and in no way restrict the safe and efficient movement of traffic. (Ord. No. 7176 § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-21. Signs permitted in all zones.

The following signs are permitted in all zones:

1. All signs not requiring permits.
2. One construction sign for each street frontage of a construction project, not to exceed 16 square feet in sign area per face in residential zones or 64 square feet in sign area in all other zones. Such signs may be erected ten days prior to beginning of construction and shall be removed ten days following completion of construction.
3. One nonilluminated real estate sign per lot or premises, not to exceed 16 square feet in sign area per face. Such sign must be removed 14 days following sale, rental or lease.
4. One attached nameplate per occupancy, not to exceed one square foot in sign area.
5. No political sign shall be allowed to be placed within eight feet of the curb or edge of pavement on any public street except when flush mounted on a building face of a permanent building nor will they be permitted to interfere with safe sight distance for vehicle turning movement.
6. Two directional/information signs per lot, not to exceed four square feet in sign area or six feet in height.
7. One company or organizational flag that can be displayed from a permanently mounted flag pole. (Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-22. Signs permitted in residential one- and two-family zones.

- a. The following signs are permitted in residential one- and two-family zones:
 1. All signs as permitted in section 83-21.
 2. One freestanding ground-mounted sign is allowed per lot, not to exceed one square foot in area. The maximum height shall not exceed six feet.
 3. One building-mounted wall sign is allowed for each residence not to exceed one square foot in area.
- b. Illumination is allowed but must not be greater than 50 footlamberts of luminance. No commercial advertising is allowed. Only signs denoting the

name and address of occupants are allowed.

- c. No residential sign shall be more than 16 square feet per facing.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-23. Signs permitted in multifamily zones.

- a. The following signs are permitted in multifamily zones:

1. All signs as permitted in section 83-21.

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2. One subdivision identification sign per neighborhood, subdivision or development, not to exceed 32 square feet.

3. One identification sign per apartment or condominium complex, not to exceed 24 feet in sign area.

4. For permitted nonresidential uses, including churches and synagogues, one freestanding sign not to exceed 24 square feet in sign area, and one wall sign not to exceed 32 square feet in sign area.

- b. No commercial advertising is allowed. Only signs denoting the name and address of the complex or name and address of occupants are allowed. All allowed freestanding signs shall have a maximum height limit of six feet and shall have a setback of five feet from any public right-of-way, measured from the closest edge of the sign. Illumination is allowed but not greater than 100 footlamberts of luminance.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-24. Signs permitted in institutional and office zones.

- a. The following signs are permitted in institutional and office zones.

1. All signs as permitted in sections 83-21 through 83-23

2. One freestanding sign per premises, not to exceed two square in sign area for each linear foot of main street frontage up to a maximum of 64 square feet. Such sign may not exceed a height of six feet. In addition to the above freestanding sign, the owner may use one of the following:

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- a. Wall or mansard signs not to exceed ten percent in aggregate sign area for that occupancy's façade area.
- b. One under-canopy or projecting sign per occupancy, not to exceed 12 square feet in sign area.
- c. Incidental signs not to exceed 24 square feet in aggregate sign area per occupancy.

3. Where a building is on a corner or has more than one main street frontage, one additional wall sign and one additional freestanding sign is allowed on the additional frontage, not to exceed the size limitations of other allowed wall and freestanding signs.

- b. All freestanding, projecting, awning, marquee and under-canopy signs shall have a minimum setback of five feet from any property line and vehicular public right-of-way, measured from the closest edge of the sign, and a

minimum clearance of 13 feet over any vehicular use area and nine feet over any pedestrian use area. Illumination is allowed but not greater than 300 footlamberts of luminance.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Signs

Sec. 83-25. Signs permitted in industrial zones

- a. The following signs are permitted in industrial zones:
 1. All signs as permitted in sections 83-21 through 83-24.
 2. One freestanding sign per premises, not to exceed two square feet in sign area for each linear foot of main street frontage up to a maximum of 72 square feet. Such sign shall not exceed a height of 30 feet. In addition to the above freestanding sign, the owner may use one of the following:
 - a. Wall or mansard signs not to exceed ten percent in aggregate sign area for that occupancy's façade area.
 - b. One awning sign per occupancy not to exceed 33 percent of the surface area of an awning, or one marquee sign not to exceed one-third square foot in sign area for each linear foot of marquee front and side.
 - c. One under-canopy or projecting sign per occupancy, not to exceed 12 square feet in sign area.
 - d. Incidental signs not to exceed 20 square feet in aggregate sign area per occupancy.
 3. Where a building has more than one main street frontage, one additional wall signage one additional freestanding sign are allowed on the additional frontage, not to exceed the size limitations of other allowed wall and freestanding signs.
 - b. All freestanding, projecting, awning, marquee and under-canopy signs shall have a minimum setback of five feet from any property line and vehicular public right-of-way, measured from the closet edge of the sign, and a minimum clearance of 13 feet over any vehicular use area and nine feet over any pedestrian use area. Illumination is allowed but not greater than 300 footlamberts of luminance.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. No. 83-26. Signs permitted in commercial zones.

- a. The following signs are permitted in commercial zones:
 1. All signs as permitted in sections 83-21 through 83-25.
 2. One freestanding sign per premises, not to exceed two square feet in sign area for each linear foot of main street frontage up to a maximum of 160 square feet.
 - a. Wall or mansard signs not to exceed ten percent in aggregate

sign area for that occupancy's façade area.

- b. One awning sign per occupancy not to exceed 50 percent of the surface area of the awning or one marquee sign not to exceed one-third square foot in sign area for each linear foot of marquee front and side.
- c. One under-canopy or projecting sign per occupancy, not to
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exceed 15 square feet in sign area.

- d. Incidental signs not to exceed 20 square feet in aggregate sign area per occupancy.
3. Where a building has more than one main street frontage, one additional freestanding sign is allowed on the additional frontage, not to exceed the size limitations of other allowed wall and freestanding signs.
- b. All freestanding, projecting, awning, marquee, and under-canopy signs shall have a minimum setback of five feet from any property line and vehicular public right-of-way, measured from the closest edge of the sign, and a minimum clearance of 13 feet over any vehicular use area. Illumination is allowed but not greater than 300 footlamberts of luminance.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-99)

Sec. 83-27. Off-premise signs.

All ordinances pertaining to off-premise signs previously passed by the city council shall remain in effect from and after the date of passage of this chapter. They shall be compiled by Municipal Code Corporation with the assistance of the planning and legal departments and codified herein.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-98)

Sec. 83-28. Special provisions for on-premises signs and other sale promotion devices.

- a. All on-premises wall signs must face required street frontage except in complexes where a sign without street frontage would be the only means of identification for a tenant.
- b. Sign heights for all ground-mounted on-premises signs located on properties immediately adjacent to and contiguous to an expressway or freeway may be measured from the elevation of the centerline of the traffic lanes (excluding frontage roads) adjacent to subject property to the top of the sign structure. It shall be the responsibility of the sign owner to submit all necessary information when this approach is used. The maximum allowable height in any zone and under any condition shall be 36 feet.
- c. In commercial and industrial zones where a lot has in excess of 150 linear feet street frontage, one additional on-premises freestanding sign will be allowed for each additional 150 linear feet of main street frontage. Such signs shall be subject to the size and height limitations of the first allowed freestanding sign and may be placed no closer than 150 linear feet from any other freestanding sign located on the same property.

- d. One temporary special event on-premise banner or device per premise per street frontage as allowed by the administrator for special events or grand openings. Special event banners or devices shall only be utilized for nonresidential uses or zoning districts. For these events, the signs or decorations may be erected for a maximum of four weeks per occasion, not to exceed four events in a calendar year.

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1. There signs or decorations shall be secured by a method approved by by the administrator to ensure safety and stability.
2. The maximum size for these banners and decorations shall be five feet vertical and 20 feet horizontal.
3. They shall not be tied, secured, mounted or affixed in any manner to a tree, landscaping, screening wall or fence. The placement of these event materials may be pole mounted or on a building provided there are no encroachments onto a public right-of-way, and do not block the vision of motorists.
4. An annual events permit may be obtained by an owner or operator of a site, which will allow the user to structure the number of events and days per year desired. The permit shall be submitted for review and approval as set forth in section 83-16. Telephone contact may be used to initiate the beginning of events and timing after initial approval.
5. Maintenance shall be as provided in section 83-17.
6. These materials or devices shall not be placed, mounted or in any way affixed to any off premises sign or billboard.
7. For purposes of mixed use development with multiple businesses or buildings on a lot or tract of land, freestanding banners shall not be permitted when two or more businesses are permitted building mounted banners. On these mixed use sites freestanding banners may be used for events common to all tenants.

Sec. 83-29. Trailer signs and temporary signs.

Temporary signs are specifically prohibited except as allowed by this chapter.

- a. Trailer signs shall be governed and regulated by the ordinances presently applicable to them, as set forth primarily within the 1980 North Little Rock Municipal Code. These ordinances shall be recodified and set out herein.
- b. Trailer signs shall not be permitted upon any route, way or corridor previously or hereafter designated by city council as a scenic route, way or corridor, with the exception of JFK between "A" Street and McCain; on McCain between North Hills Boulevard and eastern city limits; and on Lynch Drive between Broadway and I-440.

(Ord. No. 7176, § 1, 11-9-98)